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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 14, 2000

### **NATIVE AMERICAN LECTURE A FEATURE OF UM'S CHARTER DAY**

#### **MISSOULA --**

A St. Ignatius attorney nationally known for his expertise in treaty rights, water law and environmental law will present the sixth annual Native American Lecture Thursday, Feb. 17, in conjunction with The University of Montana's annual Charter Day celebration.

Daniel F. Decker will discuss "Tribal Sovereignty: Moving Into the 21st Century" beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room at Missoula's Milwaukee Station. The lecture, sponsored by UM's O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

An enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Decker is a senior partner in the Decker & Desjarlais Law Firm and specializes in Indian law representing tribes and tribal organizations.

He holds two degrees from UM, a bachelor's degree in sociology and a law degree, and earned a master's degree in education from the University of South Dakota. His previous work experience includes teaching at UM and Dawson Community College, managing the Equal Learning Opportunities Division for Montana's Office of Public Instruction and serving as managing attorney of the tribes' legal department.

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